## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tatsuya NISHIMURA et al.

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

Docket No. 2001\_1110A

Filed August 7, 2001

HYDROTHERMAL ELECTROLYTIC APPARATUS AND PROCESSES [Corresponding to PCT/JP00/00744 Filed February 10, 2000]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the new PCT application, kindly amend the application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer thereof.

Kindly add new claims 16-34 as follows:

16.(NEW) A hydrothermal electrolytic apparatus comprising a reaction cell for electrolyzing an influent containing water and reducible substances at high temperature and high pressure, wherein said reaction cell defines a chamber and has a pair of electrodes and the overall surface area of said pair of electrodes exposed in said chamber per 1 m³ of the volume of said chamber in said reaction cell is 0.05 m² or more.